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Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament
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Report of the Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 57/61 of 22 November 2002, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended working group, working on the basis of consensus, to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, taking note of the paper presented by the Chairman of Working Group II during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission[1] as well as the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the substantive sessions

2. The Open-ended Working Group held its three substantive sessions at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 14 March, 19 to 23 May and 23 to 27 June 2003, respectively, under the chairmanship of Mochamad Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia). In the course of its sessions, the Working Group held 15 meetings, including an organizational meeting. Informal consultations were also held by the Working Group during the intersessional period.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

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3. The Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as secretariat to the Working Group.

4. The 1st meeting (organizational meeting) of the Open-ended Working Group, on 7 February, was opened by the President of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, Jan Kavan (Czech Republic). The Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala, made a statement. The Working Group adopted the timetable for its three substantive sessions, as contained in document A/AC.268/2003/CRP.1.

B. Composition of the Bureau

5. At its 1st and 9th meetings, on 7 February and 21 May, respectively, the Bureau of the Working Group was constituted as follows:

Chairman:

Mochamad Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairmen:

Aleg Ivanou (Belarus)
David Govrin (Israel)
Anouar Ben Youssef (Tunisia)

Rapporteur:

Maria Angelica Arce de Jeannet (Mexico)

C. Programme of work

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March, the Open-ended Working Group adopted its programme of work, as contained in document A/AC.268/2003/CRP.4, as follows:

1. Consideration of the objectives and agenda of the fourth special session devoted to disarmament.

2. Consideration of the possible establishment of the preparatory committee for the fourth special session devoted to disarmament.

3. Report of the Open-ended Working Group to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

D. Documentation

7. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Tentative schedule of substantive sessions (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.1);

(b) Annex II Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: paper presented by the Chairman (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.2);[2]

[2] Sourced from the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

(c) Views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.3, upgraded to A/AC.268/2003/WP.1);

(d) Programme of work (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.4);

(e) Compilation of written proposals and views submitted by Member States (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.5, upgraded to A/AC.268/2003/WP.2);

(f) Working paper presented by the Chairman (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.6, CRP.6/Rev.1, CRP.6/Rev.1/Add.1 and CRP.6/Rev.2; A/AC.268/2003/CRP.6/Rev.2 upgraded to A/AC.268/2003/WP.3);

(g) Proposal by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.7);

(h) Proposal by the Non-Aligned Movement on the agenda (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.8 and CRP.8/Corr.1, both upgraded to A/AC.268/2003/WP.4).

III. Organization of work

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March, the Working Group decided to organize its work in accordance with the specific mandate given by resolution 57/61 to discuss the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Group agreed first to consider the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session devoted to disarmament. Once general consensus was reached on those issues, the Working Group agreed to discuss the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee.

9. During its time allocated for general comments during the 2nd meeting, the Working Group heard general statements made by the representatives of the following countries: Algeria, China, Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Norway and Pakistan.

IV. Conclusion

10. In accordance with its mandate as contained in resolution 57/61, the Working Group devoted 13 meetings to the consideration of the objectives and agenda for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Based on the deliberations and written proposals submitted by delegations, the Chairman prepared a working paper (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.6, CRP.6/Rev.1, CRP.6/Rev.1/Add.1 and CRP.6/Rev.2). The Working Group also considered additional proposals submitted by delegations. However, no consensus was reached by the Working Group on the objectives and agenda for a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Working Group underlined the need for that issue to be referred back to the General Assembly for its consideration.

V. Adoption of the report of the Open-ended Working Group

11. At the 14th meeting, on 26 June, Maria Angelica Arce de Jeannet (Mexico), as Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Working Group (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.9).

12. At its 15th meeting, on 27 June, the Working Group adopted by consensus its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/AC.268/2003/CRP.9).